(b) whether there is a possibility for setting up of new food testing laboratories, slaughter houses, cold storages and National Meat Board in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRl SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Government will be promoting the setting up of food processing industries and other related activities through various Plan schemes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period through financial assistance and other incentives. The investment proposals for the Eleventh Five Year Flan have not been finalized so far?

(b) and (c) The proposals for the Eleventh Five Year Plan of the Ministry could include continuation of some of the existing components under various schemes including financial assistance for setting up of food parks, food testing laboratories, could storages, modernization of abattoirs etc. It is proposed to set up a National Meat Board for overseeing the growth and further promotion of Meat and Poultry sector in the country.

Policy for development of Food Processing Industries in Sikkim

1178. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:Wili the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a policy for development and promotion of food processing industries in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details alongwith salient features thereof; and

(G) by when the said policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRl SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Schemes of the Ministry are project oriented and not State or area specific. For promotion and development of food processing industries, Government has already been implementing several Plan schemes. Under the scheme for Technology upgradation / Modernization / Establishment

of food processing units, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas including Sikkim. Under the Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for Development of Horticulture, in difficult and high horticultural potential areas including Sikkim assistance at still higher rates (@ 50% upto Rs. 4 crore) is available for processing of horticultural produce.

Assistance for setting up of food processing and training centres

1179. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether assistance is being provided by Government for setting up of food processing and training centres, entrepreneurship development programme, and creation of infrastructure and taking up degree/diploma courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof for each category; and

(c) the details of assistance provided during the past three years in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Scheme for Human Resource Development being operated by the Ministry, financial assistance are provided for the following components:—

i. Food Processing Training Centres

Under this Component, financial assistance is provided for development of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology for processing of food products by utilizing locally grown raw material and providing "Hands-on" experience at such production-cum-training centers, while according priority to SC/ST/OBC and women.